

**Forest Service**

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News Release

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Forest Service to Conduct Prescribed Burn Near Slate Lick *1,310 Acre Gauley Ridge Prescribed Burn Scheduled for November 4*

(November 3, 2014) Harrisonburg, Va – Residents of Rockingham County could see smoke in the air this week, as the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, plans to treat portions of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests with prescribed fire. The 1,310 acre Gauley Ridge Prescribed Burn is weather dependent and should take two days to complete. The Forest Service will likely begin burning the perimeter on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, and will complete the burn sometime during the next two weeks. Weather conditions will disperse smoke quickly, but residents should expect to see smoke in the vicinity for several days following the burn. The location of the burn is on the North River Ranger District near Slate Lick.

The prescribed burn will take place between Forest Road 423 at the north, and the Slate Lick Trail (FT #593) to the south. Slate Lick Trail will close to public access on the day(s) of the burn. No additional roads or trails will close; however, visitors to the national forest should exercise extreme caution due to fire traffic and personnel working in the vicinity.

Prescribed burns improve wildlife habitat, promote healthy forests, and help protect communities from potentially large, high-intensity wildfires by reducing fuel accumulations such as grass, leaves, and brush. These burns are ignited in a controlled manner only if wind speed and direction, temperature, and humidity lie within parameters which optimize firefighter's ability to maintain control of the burn. All personnel are highly trained, equipped, and prepared to perform effectively and safely.

For specific questions regarding the Gauley Ridge Prescribed Burn, please contact Elwood Burge at 540 432-0187.

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